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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑳ Application number: 83400275.0

⑤① Int. Cl.³: **B 42 D 15/04**

㉑ Date of filing: 08.02.83

③① Priority: 08.02.82 US 346441
13.12.82 US 449361

④③ Date of publication of application:
17.08.83 Bulletin 83/33

⑥④ Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

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⑥④ **Mailer construction.**


⑥⑦ A mailer construction includes a receptacle (112) bound or otherwise affixed to a single or multi-page envelope (110) or printing. The receptacle (112) forms either the cover or outer surfaces of the mailer, or may be retained within the envelope or pages. The receptacle is removable from the remainder of the assembly, and can be opened and used after the remainder of the assembly is discarded. The receptacle may have appropriate printed indicia upon its sides.

MAILER CONSTRUCTIONBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a card, envelope, mailer, multi-page document or other type of printed matter and, in particular, to such a formed paper or other sheet material which construction includes as a part thereof a collapsible container or receptacle which may be opened by the recipient and used in the appropriate manner as well as an information or message-imparting section..

A typical letter, mailer, magazine, flyer, or card, while indicating to the recipient the concerns, thoughts and interests of the sender, is a device of limited practicality. Soon after receipt by the recipient the construction is often discarded, its message and contents having been duly received and noted by the person to whom it was sent.

In addition, promotional and informational material mailed or offered for sale in the form of printed matter needs to have an element of attractiveness or novelty to grasp the recipient's attention so that the material being presented or offered for the recipient's consideration will be noticed. A utilitarian object, which may be retained and utilized by the recipient for a period of time after receipt



can serve this function and can be further adorned with appropriate indicia to further promote the services or products of the sender.

5 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a mailer or similar sheet material construction which includes an integral receptacle which may be removed from the mailer and be used in a utilitarian sense and which extends the useful life of the construction. The receptacle may be adorned with further informational promotional
10 indicia.

In accordance with the present invention a greeting card or envelope including an integrally mounted and folded paper or other flexible material container is provided. The container is so dimensioned as to be foldable to a size compatible with
15 the dimensions of the greeting card or envelope, and is removably mounted to one surface thereof. Additional card or envelope surfaces are provided for addressing purposes as well as the communicating of the appropriate sentiment. The foldable container or receptacle itself may be provided with appropriate
20 indicia to coordinate and further reinforce the tenor of the greeting card.

In accordance with a second form of the invention that concept is further developed to provide sheet material constructions of varied forms including as a part thereof a folded paper or
25 other flexible sheet-like material container. The container is so dimensioned as to be foldable to a size compatible with the dimensions of the sheet material construction, and is removable affixed to the construction. Surfaces of the construction are provided for addressing, promotion, and/or

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communication of the appropriate message information. The foldable container or receptacle itself may be provided with appropriate indicia to coordinate and further reinforce the tenor of the construction. The receptacle may be formed as the cover or outer surfaces of the mailer, or may be located or bound within the construction.

10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A complete understanding of the present invention, as well as further objects and features thereof, can be obtained by reference to the following description of preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiments of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the annexed drawings, wherein:

15

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the invention showing the greeting card in the folded configuration for mailing;

20

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Fig. 1 shown in the opened state, illustrating the exposed message area as well as the folded container or receptacle;

25

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the front of the first embodiment, showing the location of score lines provided to assist in receptacle removal from the card body;

Fig. 4 is the container of Figs. 1 and 2 in the removed and unfolded configuration;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a second embodiment, in the folded form ready for mailing;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken along line 5-5 of Fig. 4, showing the card structure as well as that of the enclosed container; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the greeting card of Fig. 4 showing the message removed from the envelope and the container in the unfolded configuration.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the invention showing an envelope construction with enclosed receptacle in the closed, ready for mailing configuration;

Figure 9 is a partial sectional view taken along line 9-9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken along line 10-10 of Figure 8.;

Figure 11 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 8-10 showing the alignment of the receptacle and overlying envelope construction;

Figure 12 is a perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the invention showing an envelope construction having an integral inner retention panel and enclosed receptacle in the closed, ready for mailing configuration;

Figure 13 is a partial sectional view taken along line 12-12 of Figure 12;

Figure 14 is a sectional view taken along line 14-14 of Figure 12;



Figure 15 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 12-14 showing the alignment of the receptacle and overlying envelope and retention panel construction;

Figure 16 is a perspective view of a fifth embodiment of the invention showing a two-part envelope construction and enclosed receptacle in the closed, ready for mailing configuration;

Figure 17 is a partial sectional view taken along line 17-17 of Figure 16;

Figure 18 is a sectional view taken along line 18-18 of Figure 16;

Figure 19 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 16-18 showing the inner envelope retention section and the receptacle having been removed therefrom;

Figure 20 is a perspective view of a sixth embodiment of the invention showing yet another envelope construction with the enclosed receptacle in the closed, ready for mailing, configuration;

Figure 21 is a sectional view taken along line 21-21 of Figure 20;

Figure 22 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 20 and 21;

Figure 23 is a perspective view of a seventh embodiment of the invention showing a further envelope construction with an integral inner securance flap or pouch



and enclosed receptacle in the closed, ready for mailing configuration;

Figure 24 is a sectional view taken along line 24-24 of Figure 23;

5 Figure 25 is an exploded perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 23 and 24;

Figure 26 is a perspective view of a eight embodiment of the invention showing another envelope construction in which a portion of the receptacle defines an
10 outer surface of the envelope;

Figure 27 is a sectional view taken along line 27-27 of Figure 26;

Figure 28 is a perspective view of the embodiment of Figures 26-27, showing the receptacle in the open
15 position;

Figure 29 is a perspective view of yet another embodiment of the invention in which the receptacle is formed as a cover of a multi-page print item;

Figure 30 is a perspective view of the receptacle
20 of Figure 29 removed from the print item;

Figure 31 is the receptacle in the open configuration; and

Figure 32 is an alternative embodiment of the embodiment of Figure 29-31 in which the receptacle is mounted
25 among the pages of the print item.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring initially to Figs. 1-4, greeting card construction 10 includes foldable receptacle or container 12 and multi-panel card structure 14. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-4 card 14 includes panels 16, 18 and 20 interconnected by fold line 22 between panels 16 and 18 and fold line 24 between panels 18 and 20. Fold lines 22 and 24 may be created by a partial cut through the panel material or by any other appropriate means. Appended to edge 26 of third panel 20 and preferably formed from the same material as panels 16 through 20 is sealing flap 28.

Receptacle 12, which can be seen in its unfolded state in Fig. 4, is manufactured of any appropriate material, such as craft paper or light gauge plastic. Receptacle 12 includes a generally flat base 30, which is dimensioned to overlie third panel 20. Sides 32 of the receptacle 12 are provided with appropriate fold lines 34 to allow the container to be collapsed to the folded state. Handles 36, which may be similarly constructed of a heavy gauge paper, are provided at the top of the receptacle, and may be folded inwardly when the receptacle is in the collapsed position.

Container base 30 is fastened to the third panel 20 by an adhesive chosen to retain the receptacle thereon, but which permits the receptacle to be removed from the panel with minimal damage thereto. Any one of several paper adhesives sold under the term "rubber cement" for example, may be used. Alternatively, panel 20 may be provided with perforation or

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score lines 37, which allow receptacle 12 to be removed along with a portion of panel 28. In such an embodiment receptacle base 30 may be permanently affixed to panel 20, which when removed from the card structure provides additional base rigidity for the receptacle.

The dimensions of panels 16, 18 and 20 are chosen such that inner face 38 of panel 16 may be folded to overlay inner face 40 of panel 18, and that both panels in such a folded configuration may be folded over receptacle 12 when in the collapsed state. Upon such folding flap 28, which includes on its inner face 42 an appropriate sealing adhesive, is fastened to the edge of panel 16, thus securing the construction in its folded state. As so folded, as shown in Fig. 1, outer surface 46 of panel 18 can be utilized for the placement of an address and postage.

Prior to sealing, surfaces 38 and 40 may be utilized by the sender to write an appropriate message. Alternatively, those surfaces may be pre-printed with sentiments appropriate for the occasion. Receptacle container 12 may similarly be adorned with indicia appropriate for the occasion. Upon receipt by the recipient flap 28 is opened, the message on surfaces 38 and 40 received, and receptacle container 12 may then be removed from the remainder of the construction, thus providing a useful item and an item which will serve as a continuous reminder to the recipient of the sentiments of the sender.

A second embodiment of the present invention can be seen in Figs. 5-7. In this embodiment receptacle/container 12 is placed upon outside surface of panel 48 of envelope



construction 50, into which an appropriate message-bearing card or letter 52 may be inserted. Envelope 50 includes both panels 48 and 52, which, as may be best seen in Fig. 5, are joined along three edges of their periphery to form the envelope chamber. Panel 48 includes integral sealing flap 54 which may be folded over the edge of panel 52 to seal the envelope after the card or letter is inserted. Sealing flap 54 contains glue line 58 to provide the sealing function.

Receptacle 12, which rests upon the outer surface of panel 48, includes fold lines 34 on its sides 32 to allow it to be folded to a size commensurate with the size of panel 48. As shown in Fig. 6, foldable handles 60 may be alternatively of a square, rather than the triangular configuration shown in Fig. 3. As may be best seen in Fig. 6, receptacle container 12 is enclosed in an impervious covering 62 to keep it in its folded state and protect it during display and mailing. Packaging 62 may be of a transparent and flexible thin plastic film. The enclosed receptacle container is 12 then adhesively attached to panel 48. In the embodiment of Figs. 5-7, envelope construction 50 is used in the conventional manner, with the recipient's address and postage being affixed to the outer surface 56 of panel 52. Enclosed message card or letter 64 is inscribed with the appropriate sentiment, while receptacle 12 may be similarly adorned.

The present invention provides a greeting card construction having a utility and value which extends beyond that of the conventional card. The incorporation of a removable receptacle container to a card or envelope construction permits the recipient to utilize a section of the



greeting past the time when conventional cards are usually discarded, thus providing a more meaningful vehicle for the transmission of sentiments between the sender and recipient.

Referring to Figures 8-28, the present invention may take the general form of an envelope 110 and enclosed receptacle 112. Both envelope 110 and receptacle 112 are manufactured of appropriate sheet material, with envelope 110 normally being of a paper or cardboard product and receptacle 112 being of craft paper or light gauge plastic.

In general, receptacle 112 includes a generally flat base 114 and upstanding sides 116, which are provided with appropriate fold lines 118 to allow the container to be collapsed to the essentially planar folded state. Handles 120 as may be seen in the embodiment of Figure 128, may be constructed of a heavy gauge paper, may be provided at the top of the receptacle, and may be folded inwardly when the receptacle is in the collapsed position.

As seen in Figures 8-11, envelope 110 may include first message panel 122, middle panel 124, and third address panel 126, joined seriatim along their widths by fold lines 128, which may be perforated, scored or otherwise provided. Affixed to opposed edges of third panel 126 are, receptacle retention flaps 130 having affixation tabs 132 secured to the panel. Third panel 126 is further provided with sealing flap 134 joined thereto by fold line 136 and provided with an appropriate moisture-activated adhesive to secure the envelope in the folded configuration shown in Figure 8. The dimension of the panels are such that message panel 122 may be folded inward to overly the inner face of address panel 124

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and both panels may be again folded inward to overlay the folded receptacle 112.

The dimension of receptacle 116 and in particular of its base 114, are such that it can overlie the inner face of third panel 126 when folded. Flaps 130 are then folded inward over the folded receptacle, and the flap comprised of panels 122 and 124 is then folded to overlie the receptacle. Flap 134 is then moistened and folded over the edge of panel 122 to retain the entire assembly in the folded state. Depending upon the gauge of the materials used for the envelope and receptacle, auxiliary fold line 138 may be provided proximate to and parallel to fold line 128 between panels 124 and 126 on panel 124 to accomodate the thickness of the folded structure. A similar auxiliary fold line 140 may be provided on flap 134.

Both the inner and outer surfaces of the panels may be used in the appropriate manner to either transmit written and/or pictorial information. The construction can also be utilized to enclose further sheet material bearing other information or sentiments in the manner of a conventional envelope. The sides 116 of receptacle 112 can also be utilized for information display purposes.

Referring next to Figures 12-15 address panel 126 may be provided with a full width inner panel 142 having side tabs 144 affixed to the inner edges of address panel 126. Panel 142 and the inner surface of panel 126 define an open-ended sleeve which allows receptacle 112 to be slid therein when in the folded state. As in the previous



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embodiment, message panel 122 is folded inwardly upon panel 124, the resulting construction being folded over the inner face of panel 126 bearing inner panel 142 and enclosed receptacle 112. Sealing flap 34 keeps the construction in the folded state for mailing.

In the embodiment presented in Figures 16-19, envelope 110 is in the form of an external envelope sleeve 146 and an insert construction 148. Sleeve 146 has first side 150 and second side 152 constructed out of a unitary piece of material folded and bound together by flap 154. Dimensioned for insertion into the envelope sleeve is panel insert construction 148, comprising seriatim panels 156, 158 and 160, each of which may bear printed or written information or correspondence. Panel 160 is supplied with an integral securement flap 162, with dual fold lines 164 and 165 providing sufficient clearance for the flap over the enclosed receptacle.

As in the previous embodiment panels 156, 158 and are joined by fold lines 128 and 138 to accommodate the inserted receptacle assembly.

Referring next to Figures 20-22, in this embodiment envelope structure 110 includes first and second panels 168 and 170 joined by fold line 172. Envelope sealing flap 174 projects from panel 170 along fold line 176 while mating slot 178 is located in panel 168 to secure the flap 174 when the envelope is closed. The outside face of panel 170 may be used for address purposes while the inner faces of both panels 168 and



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170 may be used for message bearing purposes. Receptacle 112 is dimensioned to fit within the closed panels in the similar manner as with previous embodiments. The receptacle may be affixed to one of the panels, if desired, by a peelable adhesive, such as rubber cement. Both fold lines 172 and 176 may have an auxiliary, parallel fold line (not shown) to accommodate the thickness of the enclosed folded receptacle.

In the embodiment presented in Figures 23-25 two panel envelope 110 is provided with inner flap 180 along the external edge of panel 170. Flap 180 is affixed to the panel 170 proximate its outer edges 182 to define a pocket 184 into which an edge of the collapsed receptacle 112 may be inserted. External edge 185, of panel 168 has corner section 186 removed to permit the panel edge to be inserted into pocket 184 to close the envelope assembly. As in the other embodiments, an external face of a panel 168 or 170 may be used for addressing purposes while the internal faces may be used for message correspondence.

The embodiment of Figures 26-28 depicts a construction in which the receptacle itself functions also as an envelope. In this embodiment receptacle 112 is provided with flap 188 on the upper edge of a side 116. The receptacle is folded upon itself such that the flap secures the bag in the folded position. The flap may be provided with a peelable adhesive, such as "rubber cement", to allow the receptacle to remain folded during transit and to be opened upon receipt. In this embodiment one of the outward facing



surfaces of the bag, such as surface 190, is utilized as an address panel which internal surfaces may be used for correspondence. In addition, the receptacle may be used to carry additional sheets bearing written material.

5 As seen in the embodiments of Figures 29-32, the present invention may also be in the form of a multi-page printed item 192 coupled to the folded receptacle 194. In this embodiment the receptacle, in its folded shape, duplicate the planar configuration of the individual sheets from which the
10 pages of the printed item 192, such as catalog or magazine, are formed. The receptacle 194 may be in the form of an overlying cover for the printed item, as seen in Figures 122 and 123, or may be bound within the leaves of the item, as shown in Figure 125. In either case the receptacle is affixed
15 to the printed item by staples or the like along the fold line 96 of the item sheets.

 It is to be recognized that numerous modification and adaptation of the invention may be utilized without departing from the spirit of the invention. The scope of the
20 invention, therefore, is to be measured by the annexed claims.

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CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A greeting card construction, comprising a message conveying section having at least one panel, and a collapsable receptacle having a base and upwardly projecting sides, said receptacle being removably affixed to said first panel.

2. A greeting card construction comprising a first panel joined to a second panel by a first fold line, a third panel joined to said second panel by a second fold line, said first and second panels being adapted for the display of printed indicia thereon, and a collapsable receptacle having a base and upwardly projecting sides, said base being removably affixed to said third panel, said sides being foldable upon said base such that said third panel may be folded along said second fold line into a position overlying said second panel with said receptacle in its folded configuration lying therebetween.

3. The construction of claim 2 wherein said collapsable receptacle is of paper.

4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said base is co-extensive with said third panel.

5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said receptacle further comprises a pair of foldable handles.

6. A greeting card construction comprising two or more panels joined seriatim along fold lines therebetween and a collapsable receptacle removably attached to one of said panels, said receptacle being collapsable to a form in
5 which it overlies and is co-extensive with the panel to which it is attached.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said receptacle includes a base and a plurality of sides extending upwardly from said base, said base being removably attached to one
10 of said panels.

8. A greeting card construction comprising two or more panels joined seriatim along fold lines therebetween and a collapsable receptacle having a base and a plurality of upward extending sides, said base being formed from at
15 least part of one of said panels, said base forming panel part being removable from the other of said panels so that said receptacle may be removed from said greeting card construction.

9. A greeting card construction comprising an
20 envelope formed of a first and a second panel affixed to each other to form a message retaining pocket therebetween, and a collapsable receptacle removably attached to one of said panels, said receptacle being collapsable to a form in which it is co-extensive with the panel to which it is attached.



10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said .
receptacle includes a base and a plurality of sides extending
upwardly from said base, said base being removably attached
to one of said panels.


5 11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said
receptacle is retained in its collapsed form by a protective
wrapping overlying said receptacle.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said
wrapping is of plastic film.

10 13. A mailer construction comprising a receptacle
having a base and upstanding sides, said receptacle being
foldable into an essentially planar configuration; and
an envelope comprising a plurality of panels
interconnected by fold lines, said envelope being dimensioned
15 and constructed to carry and support said receptacle therein
when said receptacle is in the planar configuration, said
panels being adapted to bear printed indicia thereon.

20 14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said panels are
three in number, one of said panels having means for
retaining said receptacle in alignment with said envelope.

15. The assembly of claim 14 wherein said retention
means comprise a pair of flaps on opposed edges of said one
panel.



16. The assembly of claim 14 wherein said retention means comprise an inner panel affixed to the inner-facing surface of said one panel along two opposed edges of said one panel and inner panel to form a pocket dimensioned for the receipt of said receptacle.

17. The assembly of claim 13 further including an outer sleeve member dimensioned to carry said envelope and receptacle therein.

18. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said panels are two in number, one of said panels having a projecting flap along an exterior edge the other of said panels having a slot located and dimensioned to accept said flap to retain said envelope and enclosed receptacle in the folded, envelope-forming configuration.

19. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said panels are two in number, one of said panels having an overlying section along an exterior edge forming a pocket to accept the opposed exterior edge of the second of said panels and to accept a portion of said receptacle when said receptacle is in the folded configuration.

20. A receptacle adapted and constructed to perform both a storage function and an information-transfer function, comprising a base and four upstanding sides, said base and sides being formed from a sheet material and being foldable

into an essentially planar configuration, one of said sides having a tab located upon its upper edge dimensioned and adapted to be foldable over at least a portion of said receptacle when folded to retain said receptacle in said
5 folded configuration, the sides and base of said receptacle being adapted to provide surfaces upon which an address and other information-transferring indicia may be placed.

21. A multi-page booklet construction, comprising a plurality of sheets formed into pages, said pages being bound
10 to one another along a fold line to permit turning of the individual pages, and a receptacle having a base and upstanding sides formed from a sheet material and being foldable into an essentially planar configuration, said receptacle being bound in the planar configuration to said
15 pages.

22. The construction of claim 21 wherein said
1 receptacle serves as a cover for the pages of the booklet.

23. The construction of claim 21 wherein said
receptacle is interleaved with the pages of the booklet.

20 24. The construction of claim 22 wherein said
receptacle is bound to said pages along said fold line.

25. The construction of claim 23 wherein said
receptacle is bound to said pages along said fold line.

26 . The assembly of claim 13 wherein said receptacle bears printed indicia on the sides thereof relating to the subject matter of said envelope.

FIG. 1

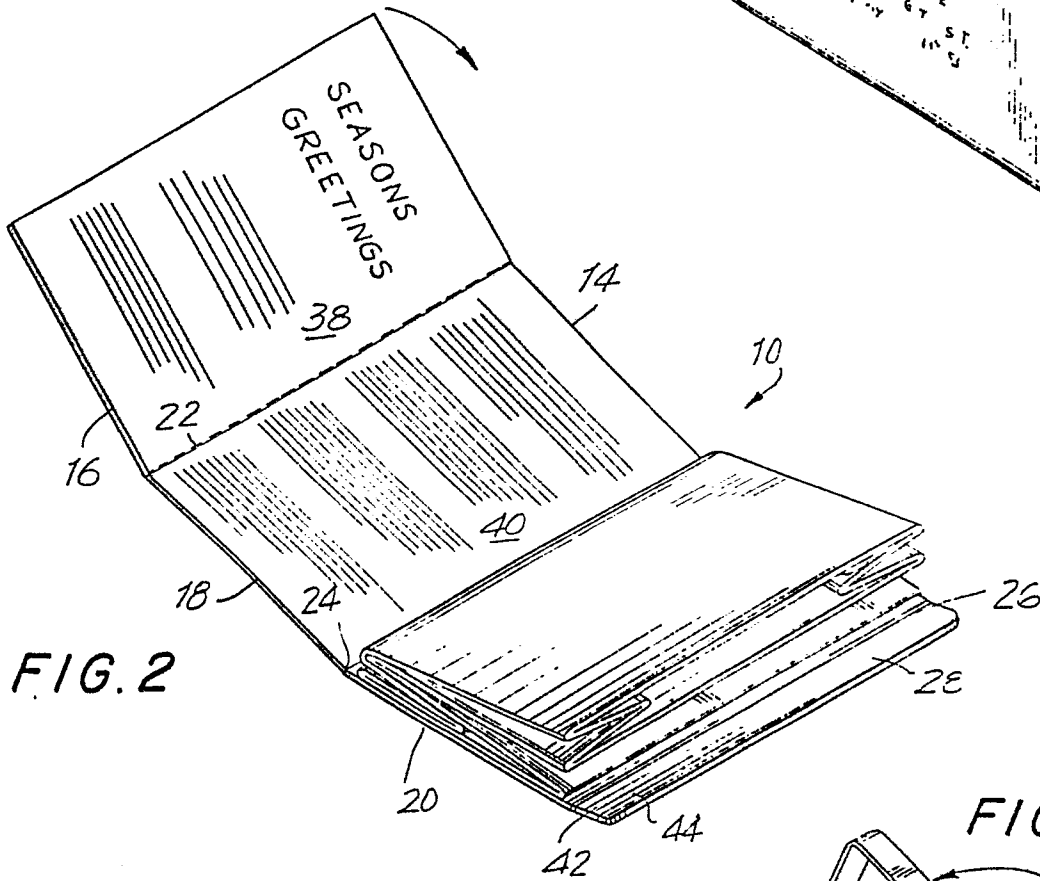
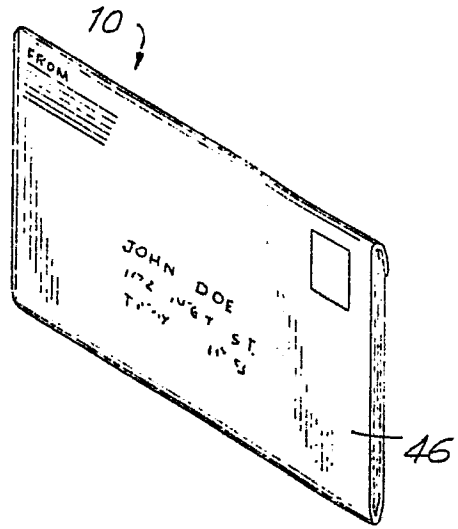


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

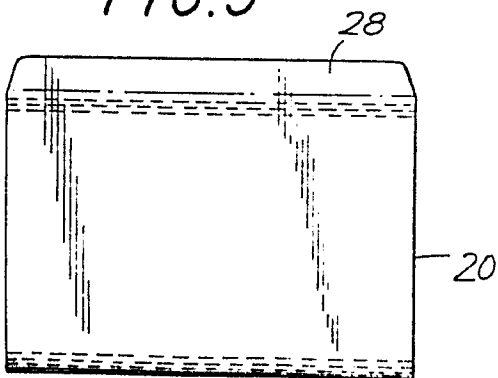


FIG. 4

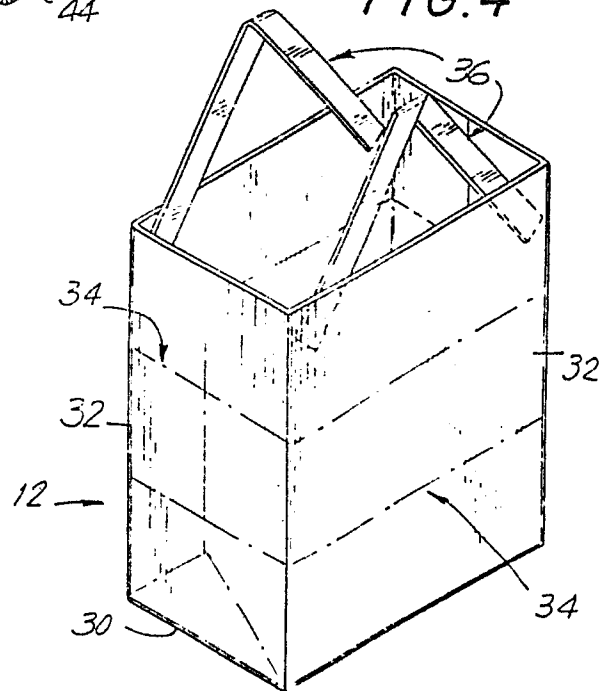


FIG. 5

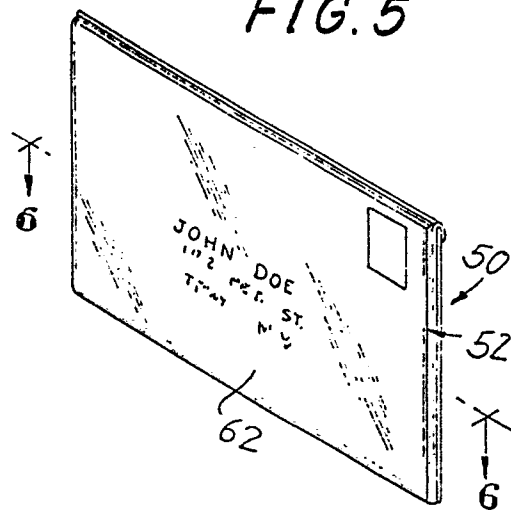


FIG. 7

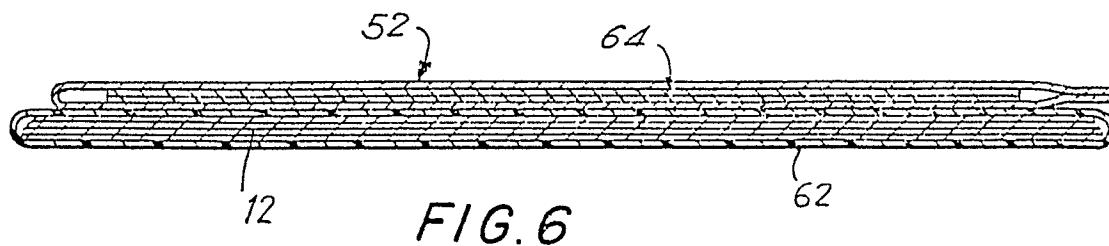
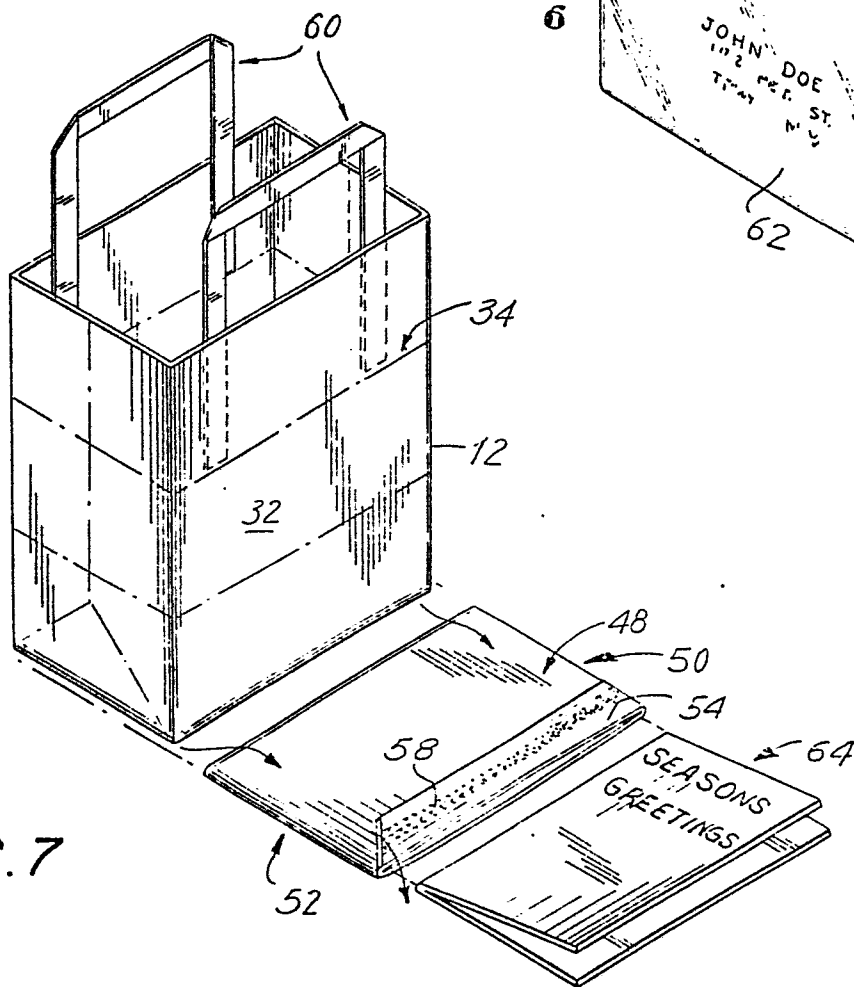


FIG. 6

FIG. 8

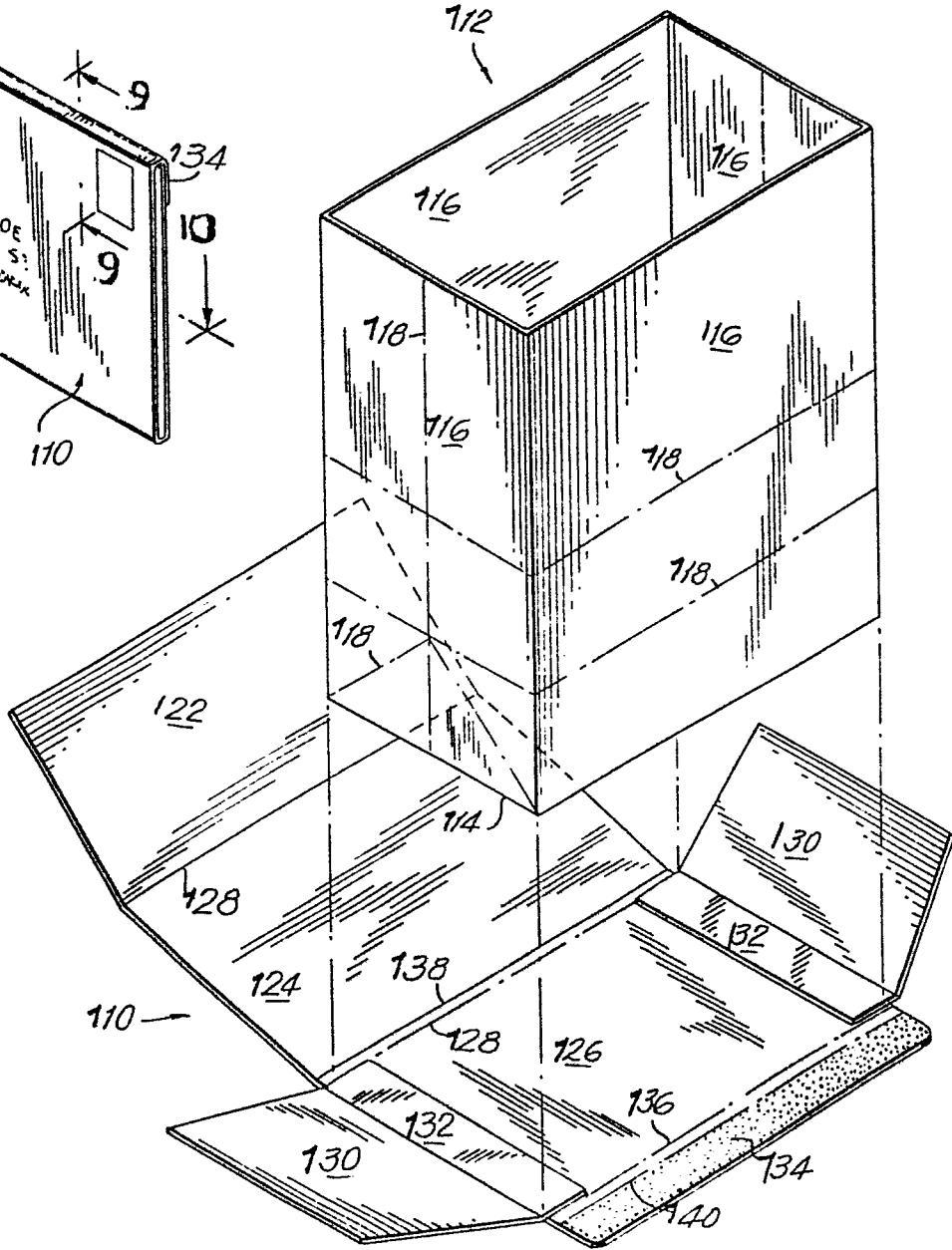
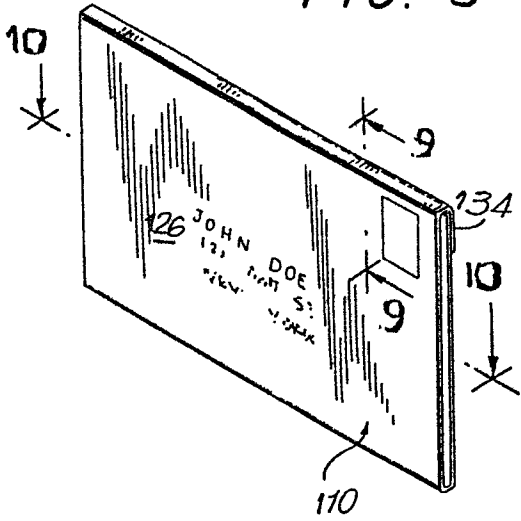


FIG. 11

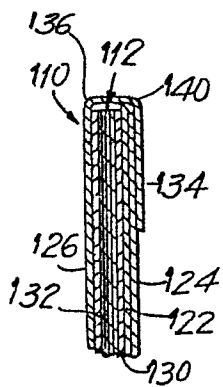


FIG. 9

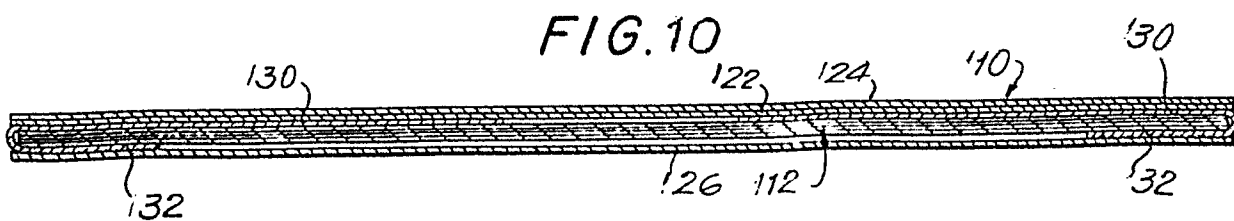


FIG. 10

FIG. 12

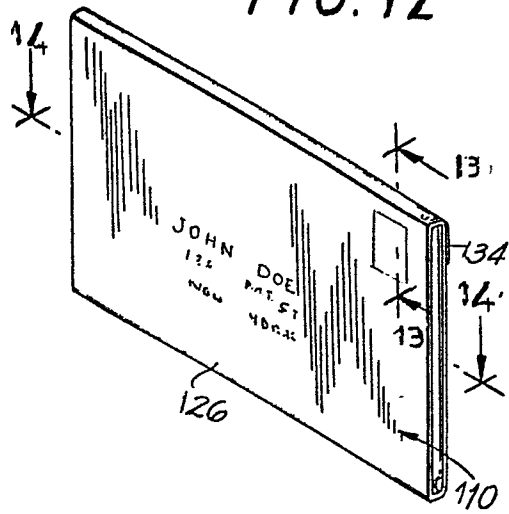


FIG. 13

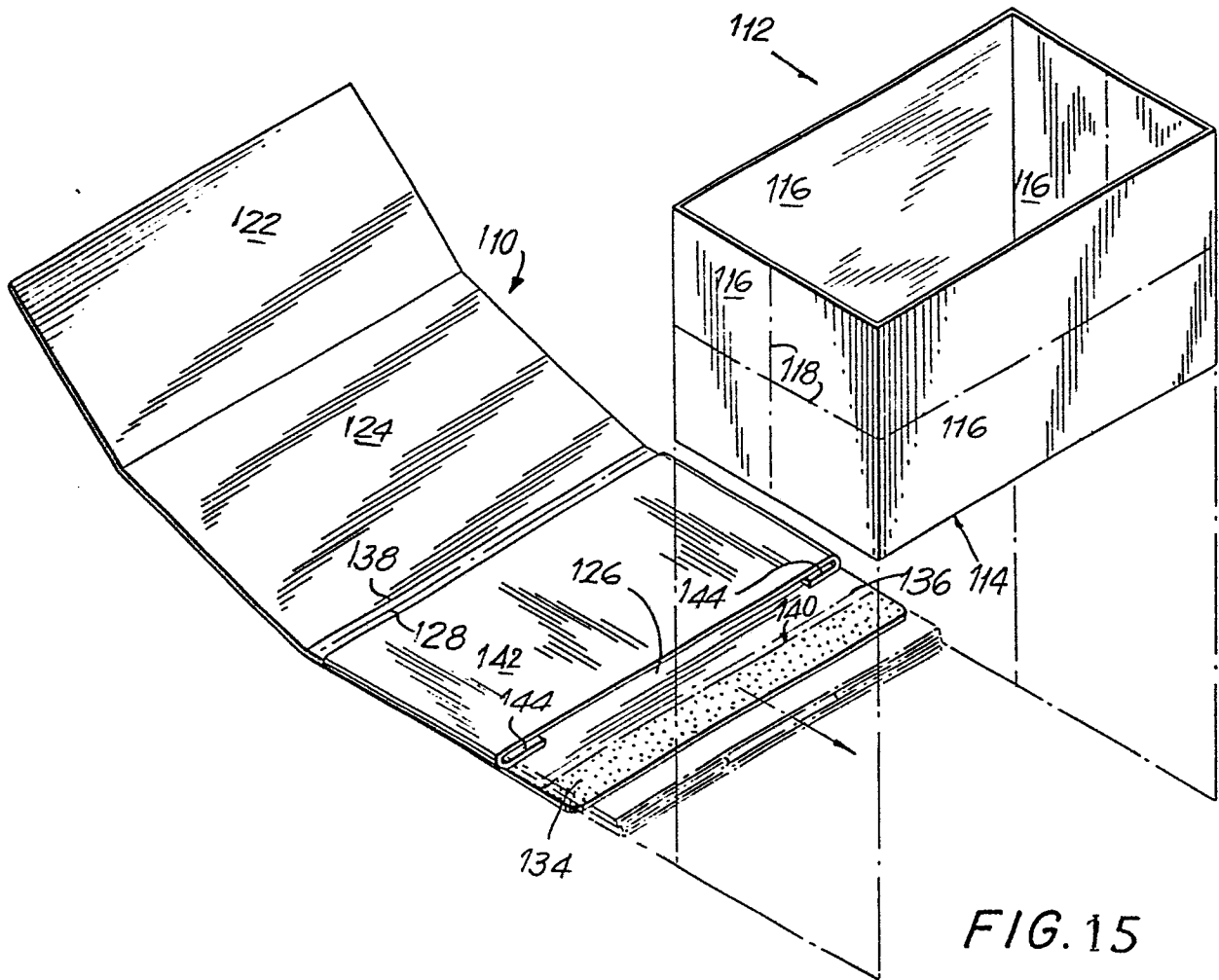
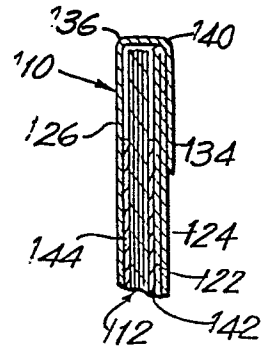


FIG. 15

FIG. 14

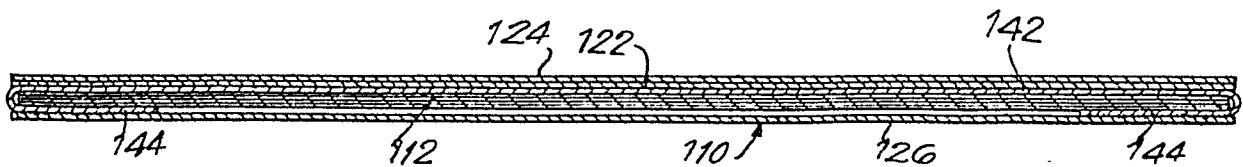


FIG. 20

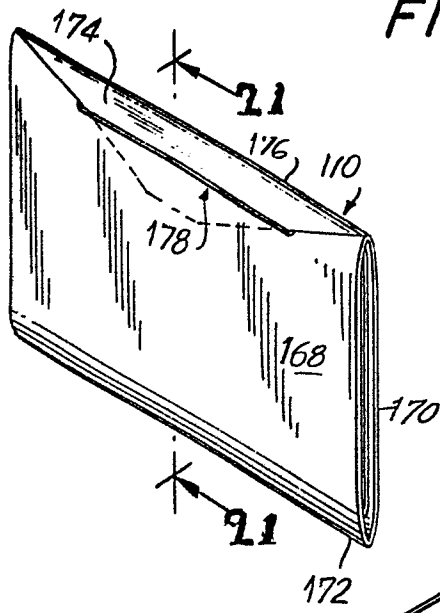


FIG. 21

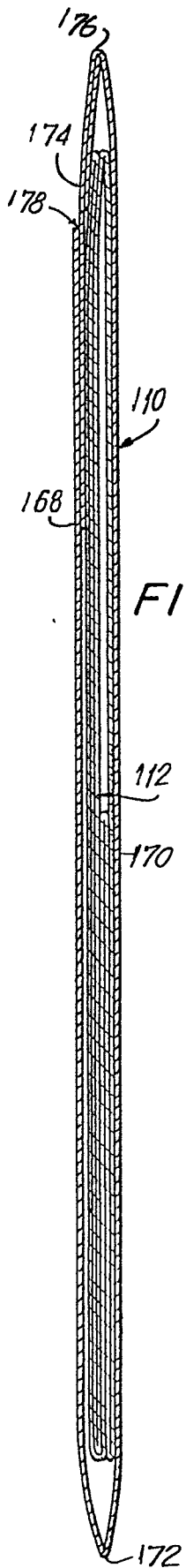


FIG. 22

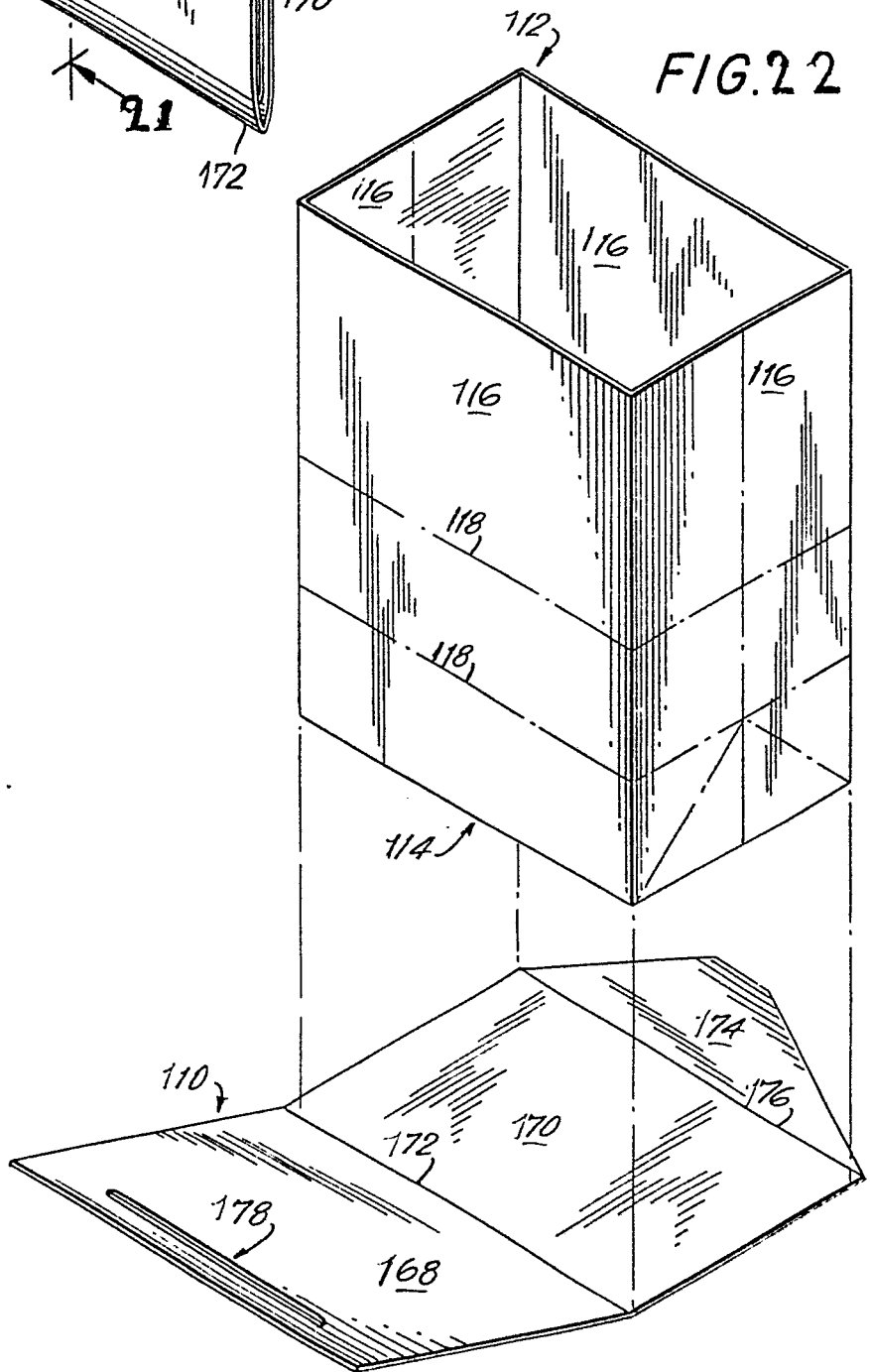


FIG. 23

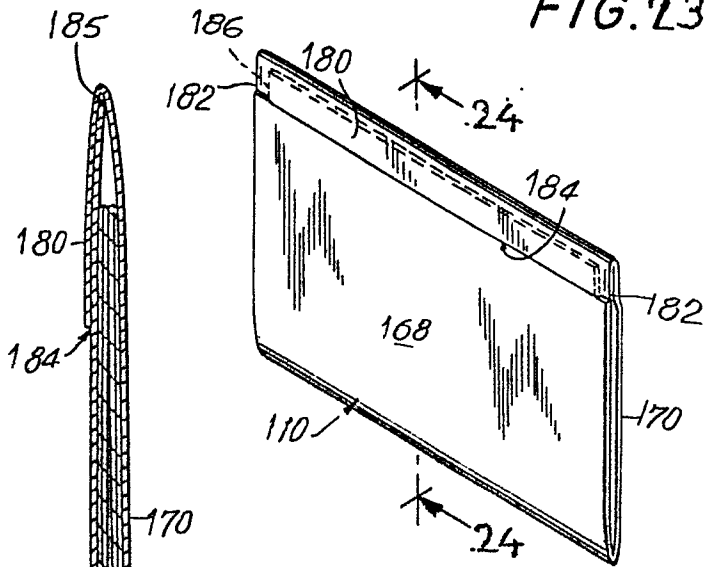


FIG. 25

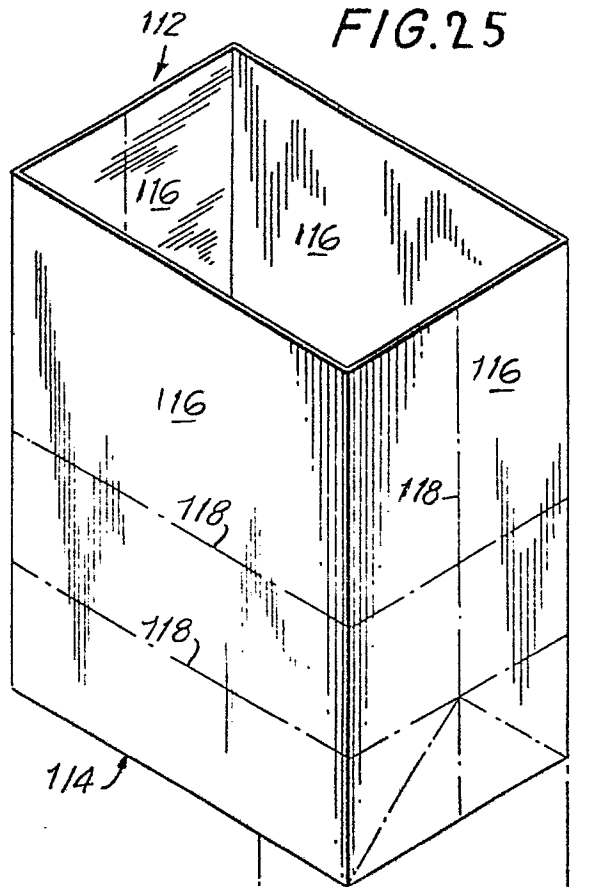


FIG. 24

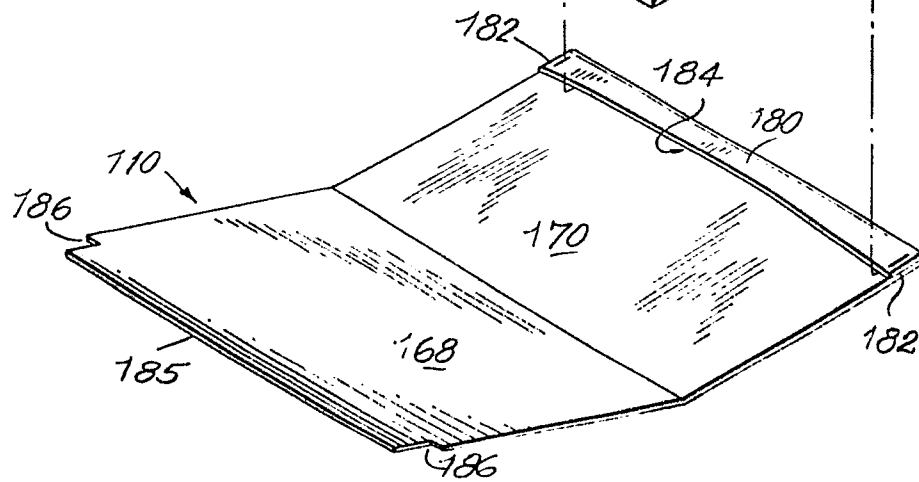
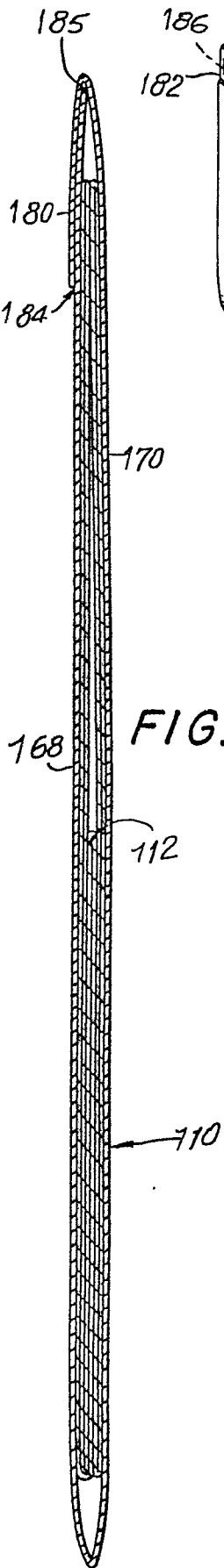


FIG. 26

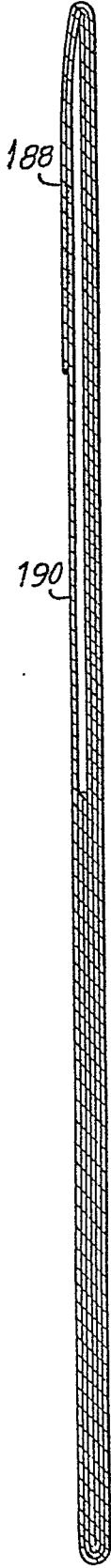
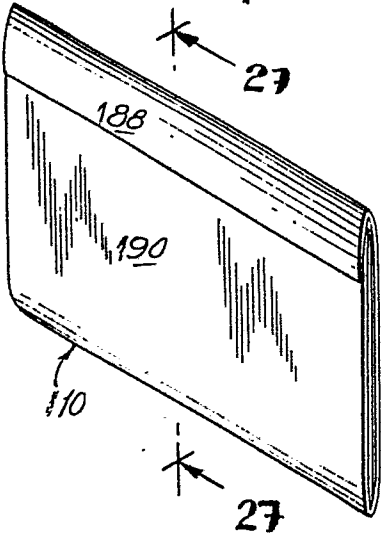


FIG. 27

FIG. 28

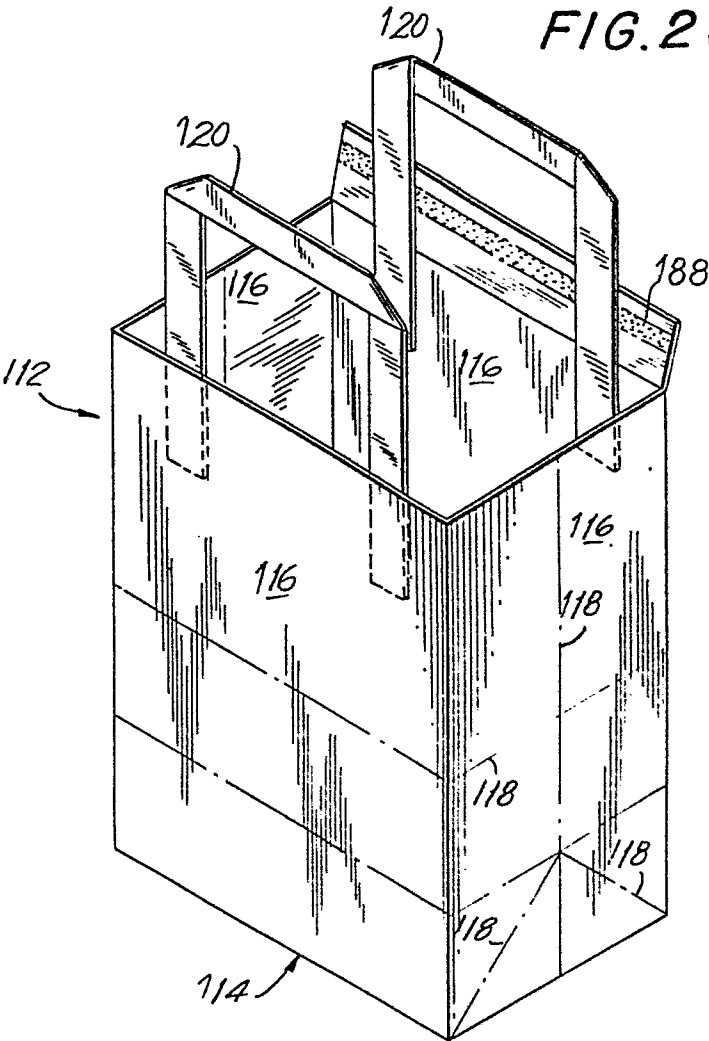


FIG. 29

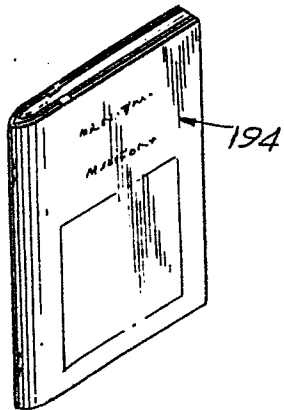


FIG. 30

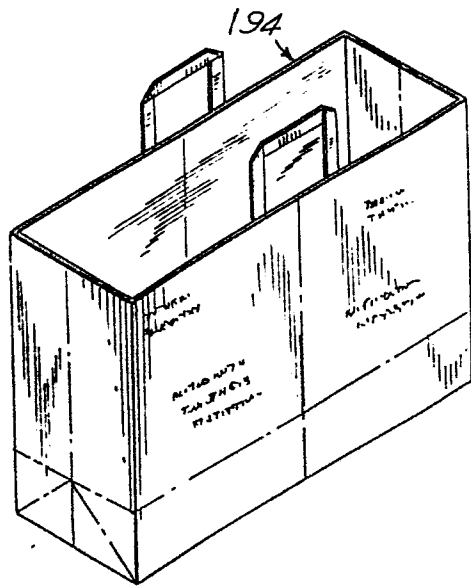
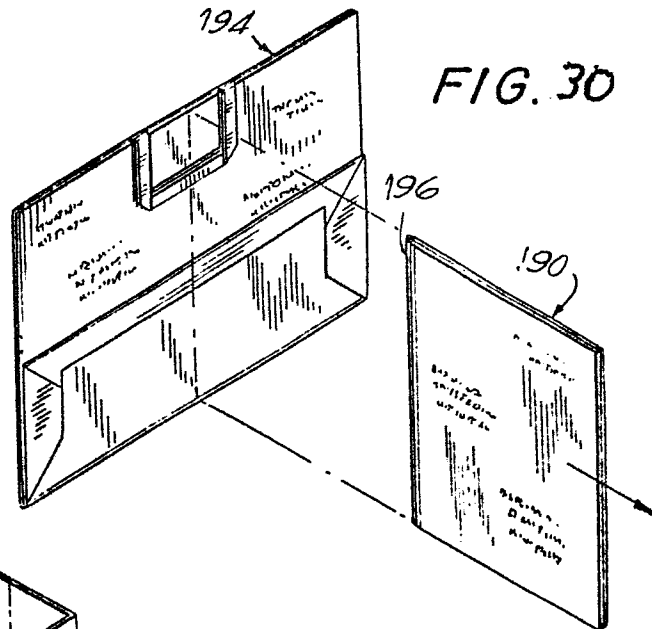


FIG. 31

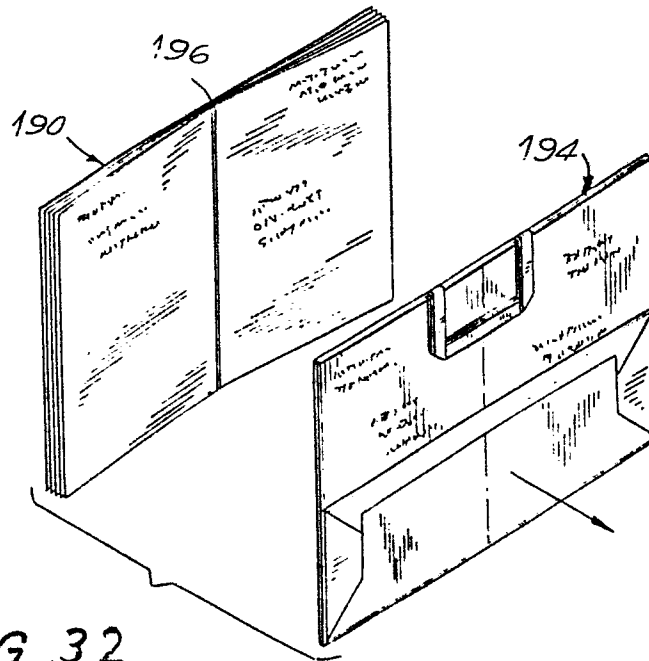


FIG. 32



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)	
A	US-A-1 412 635 (TEN EYCK) * Page 1, lines 40-101; figures *	1,2,6, 13,14	B 42 D 15/04	
A	CA-A- 975 961 (JENKINS) * Page 1, line 2 - page 2, line 12; figures *	13		
A	US-A-4 186 868 (COLEMAN) * Column 2, line 10 - column 4, line 3; figures *	13,14, 15		
A	FR-A-1 581 645 (L'EMBALLAGE CARTON) * Whole description *	16		
A	FR-A-1 039 813 (CATINEAU) * Whole description *	18		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
A	US-A-3 327 928 (GREEN) * Column 2, lines 4-20; figures *	20		B 42 D B 65 D
A	US-A-2 088 232 (COLONIAL LAUNDRIES)			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26-04-1983	Examiner LONCKE J.W.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document				